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think there will be times when this Legislature can step back and reflect. And if we solve this teacher shortage problem, and I would love to solve that problem with a number of initiatives, but if we're able to get to a point where we aren't needing the program, it doesn't need to be there. I would also point out that the structure for this and the idea for this are not unique. We have done this with programs for medical personnel throughout the state. We have programs to attract nurses to specific areas. We've done it with doctors. This isn't an unusual path for the state to follow. We have done it in other areas and now is the time we need to get started with it. And so I oppose the Chambers amendment. I'm trying to remember the other questions that you may have had, but I think those address some of the specifics. There is a one-pager that says, "Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program" that has the outline of what this will do. I think we need to keep it in the budget this year because we do have a serious shortage problem. I'd also point out to you that there are live people e-mails that were sent last year. These aren't all of them. We have pages and pages and pages. These are some we just picked out because I thought they were representative.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: And if we need to go through them, I'll kind of see where the debate heads. I would mention that. And the third thing I want to mention in addition to these two pieces is I passed out an article from the Lincoln Journal Star entitled "Rurally Teacher Shortage Old News." And if you have time to scan that article, you'll hear some things that are impacting school districts around the state. And it isn't just urban but even though we know the Omaha Public Schools started 65 teachers short this year, this is an ongoing problem that's been there for a long time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I offer my support to the Chambers amendment and I'll try to explain why. Certainly one of the items is \$5.4 million over the biennium. That's a significant amount of money and that's what's being